

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 900

By West

A RESOLUTION to honor *The News Herald* and its editor and publisher, Jack Soodhalter, upon the twentieth anniversary of the newspaper's publication.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should recognize those exemplary newspapers that manage to serve community needs and interests by means of poignant and thorough reporting; and,

WHEREAS, *The News Herald*, under the strong leadership of its editor and publisher, Jack Soodhalter, represents one such worthy newspaper that stands unsurpassed in community involvement; largely based on this dedication to its readers' interests, the newspaper will proudly celebrate the twentieth anniversary of its publication this spring; and

WHEREAS, the first edition of *The News Herald* was published in early April of 1984, and its content continues to provide state and local news coverage, marriage, death and birth announcements, local advertising, and community feature stories for the Donelson-Hermitage area; and

WHEREAS, *The News Herald* has received the honor and distinction of being named "the official newspaper for the Donelson-Hermitage area" by the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, *The News Herald* has the largest circulation of any weekly home-delivered community newspaper in Middle Tennessee, and in tandem, *The News Herald* and *The News Beacon* (another of Mr. Soodhalter's publications) have the largest circulation of any weekly home-delivered community newspaper in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Soodhalter has been a pillar of the Donelson-Hermitage community, garnering such accolades as the Chamber of Commerce Newsman of the Year in 1986 and the Chamber Businessman of the Year in 1989; and

WHEREAS, the distinguished publisher and editor created the outstanding idea for Andrew Jackson Day, an event held annually at The Hermitage to commemorate and honor the life of President Jackson, and Mr. Soodhalter received the prestigious Andrew Jackson Meritorious Award in 1986 for his commitment and dedication to his community; and

WHEREAS, Jack Soodhalter's devotion to his community has translated into accurate, fair, and reliable reporting in the newspapers that he publishes, and the longevity of *The News Herald* confirms the importance that the community places on this newspaper; and

WHEREAS, this fine community newspaper and its publisher should be honored and recognized for twenty years of loyal service to the Donelson-Hermitage community, where it has served as a model of quality journalism; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the members of this body hereby pause to honor and commend *The News Herald* upon the twentieth anniversary of its publication and recognize the newspaper's editor and publisher, Jack Soodhalter, for his unyielding commitment to informing and supporting the Donelson-Hermitage community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.